

HOUSE BILL 2405

By Thompson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 10; Title 12; Title 65;
Title 67 and Title 68, relative to internet neutrality.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1.

(a) There is created a task force of the general assembly to study issues relating to the Federal Communication Commission's withdrawal of the Open Internet Order, which enacted strong net neutrality. The task force shall study all issues related to the withdrawal of net neutrality, including, but not limited to:

(1) The extent to which there is a danger of internet service providers in this state engaging in blocking, throttling, and discrimination;

(2) The extent to which net neutrality preserved rights to communicate freely online and to the extent to which internet service providers will be able to control the activity of state residents on the internet;

(3) Any existing statutes or rules in this state or other states that currently prevent internet service providers from blocking websites, services, or other online content, throttling or slowing down websites or services, or engaging in paid prioritization; and

(4) The legal or practical barriers to Tennessee enacting legislation that would bring back net neutrality for residents of Tennessee.

(b) The task force shall consist of:

(1) Two (2) members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(2) Two (2) members of the senate appointed by the speaker of the senate;

(3) One (1) municipal or metropolitan government mayor appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(4) One (1) county mayor appointed by the speaker of the senate; and

(5) Two (2) members representing the start-up community or technology industry appointed jointly by the speaker of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives.

(c) All appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the task force upon request of the chair.

(d) All legislative members of the task force who are duly elected members of the general assembly shall remain members of the task force until the task force reports its findings and recommendations to the general assembly.

(e) The task force shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the general assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice chair, and such other officers the task force deems necessary. The task force shall meet at least twice in order to conduct its study.

(f) The task force shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the general assembly no later than January 15, 2019, at which time the task force shall cease to exist.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.